

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 IO-10 SAB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4956

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 7296

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJ: LABOR PARTY REJECTS NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL

REF: TEL AVIV 7136

1. LABOR PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND KNESSET FACTION
DECEMBER 17 ADOPTED RESOLUTION (30-11-3) DRAFTED BY PRIME
MINISTER RABIN STATING THAT " CONDITIONS HAD NOT BEEN CREATED
AT PRESENT TO COOPT THE LIKUD INTO THE COALITION." MINISTERS
YARIV AND YAACOBI VOTED AGAINST RESOLUTION, AND PERES AND
HILLEL ABSTAINED.

2. RABIN IN FORCEFUL PRESENTATION DURING DEBATED DREW SHARP
DISTINCTION BETWEEN POLICIES AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF
LABOR ALIGNMENT AND LIKUD. RABIN NOTED THAT LABOR ALIGNMENT,
IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS 1973 CAMPAIGN PLATFORM AND GUIDELINES
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OF CURRENT GOVERNMENT, WAS COMMITTED TO SEEKING NEGOTIATED

PEACE SETTLEMENTS ON BASIS OF TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE, WHILE LIKUD REJECTED THIS POLICY. LABOR PARTY COULD NOT GUARANTEE THAT PEACE WOULD BE ACHIEVED, BUT ONLY THAT ISRAEL WAS READY TO TAKE RISKS AND SHOW FLEXIBILITY IN EFFORT TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL. AS RESULT OF THIS APPROACH, GOI HAD EFFECTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH USG, INCLUDING ARMS SUPPLIES, BUT THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT ISRAEL WOULD WAIVE ITS PRINCIPLES.

3. RESPONDING TO BEGIN'S FIERCE PERSONAL ATTACK IN KNESSET LAST WEEK, (TEL AVIV 7152 PARA 8), RABIN CHARACTERIZED BEGIN AS " ARCHEOLOGICAL RELIC OF POLITICAL LIFE IN ISRAEL" FOR WHOM WORDS WERE MORE IMPORTANT THAN ACTIONS. HE FURTHER SAID THAT BEGIN WAS IMPORTANT ASSET FOR LABOR PARTY SINCE, AS LONG AS HE REMAINS HEAD OF HERUT PARTY, LIKUD WOULD REMAIN INCAPABLE OF CONSTITUTING AN ALTERNATIVE RATHER THAN JUST AN OPPOSITION GROUPING. BEGIN, HE SAID, WAS BORN TO BE AN OPPOSITION HEAD. FINALLY, HE ATTACKED BEGIN FOR CONSISTENTLY HAVING SUPPRESSED EMERGENCE OF NEW LEADERS IN HERUT SUCH AS SHMUEL TAMIR, AND EZER WEIZMAN (NEITHER OF WHOM IS IN HERUT TODAY).

4. COMMENT: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION CLOSES CHAPTER IN EFFORT OF RIGHT-WING LABOR PARTY MEMBERS (MOSTLY RAFI) TO PROMOTE NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT. BUT, AS LABOR MK WHO IS OPPOSED TO INCLUSION OF LIKUD TOLD ISRAELI TV AUDIENCE LAST NIGHT, POSSIBILITY OF UNITY GOVERNMENT STILL CANNOT BE RULED OUT, DEPENDING ON POLITICAL AND MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN MONTHS AHEAD.
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